



THE LIFE

OF
GEN. TAYLOR,

THE WHIG NOMINEE

FOR
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES;

AND
A BRIEF BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

OF
HON. MILLARD FILLMORE,

NOMINEE FOR VICE-PRESIDENT.

ILLUSTRATED BY NUMEROUS ENGRAVINGS

BY ARTHUR SUTTER

PEACE MAKER

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VOTES OF DELEGATES IN THE WHIG NATIONAL CONVENTION, PHILADELPHIA.

We publish below a statement, very carefully prepared, of the vote given, on each ballot for President, by each member of the Whig National Convention in Philadelphia. We believe it will be found to be entirely accurate—and will possess interest for present purposes as well as for future reference.

1st Ballot. 2d Ballot. 3d Ballot. 4th Ballot.

MAINE.

L. O. Cowan,	Webster	Webster	Scott	Scott
I. Scverance,	Webster	Webster	Webster	Scott
E. Kent,	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor
S. Dutton,	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor
G. W. Pickering,	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor
E. W. Farley,	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor
G. C. Gatchell,	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor
James Adams,	Clay	Scott	Scott	Scott
W. P. Fessenden,	Webster	Webster	Webster	Webster

NEW HAMPSHIRE.

C. W. Cutler,	Webster	Webster	Webster	Taylor
G. W. Nesbit,	Webster	Webster	Webster	Webster
A. P. Hughes,	Webster	Webster	Webster	Webster
A. Colby,	Webster	Webster	Webster	Webster
J. Kittredge,	Webster	Webster	Webster	Webster
J. Goodwin,	Webster	Webster	Webster	Taylor

VERMONT.

H. Everett	Clay	Clay	Clay	Clay
S. Foote,	Clay	Clay	Clay	Clay
A. P. Lyman,	Clay	Clay	Clay	Taylor
H. Cutts,	Clay	Clay	Clay	Scott
H. E. Royce,	Clay	Clay	Clay	Scott
Portus Baxter,	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor

MASSACHUSETTS.

A. Huntington,	Webster	Webster	Webster	Webster
Chas. Allen,	Webster	Webster	Webster	Webster
W. G. Bates,	Webster	Webster	Webster	Webster
E. H. Kellogg,	Webster	Webster	Scott	Scott
H. Wilson,	Webster	Webster	Webster	Webster
A. P. Fairbank,	Webster	Webster	Webster	Webster
Geo. Lunt,	Webster	Webster	Taylor	Taylor
Rufus Choate,	Webster	Webster	Webster	Webster
J. T. Stevenson,	Webster	Webster	Webster	Webster
Geo. Ashmun,	Webster	Webster	Webster	Webster
O. Ames, jr.,	Webster	Webster	Webster	Webster
Thos. Nye, jr.,	Webster	Webster	Scott	Scott

RHODE ISLAND.

J. P. Simmons,	Clay	Clay	Clay	Taylor
Chas. Jackson,	Clay	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor
A. Bosworth,	Clay	Clay	Clay	Taylor
Thos. J. Stead,	Clay	Clay	Clay	Taylor

CONNECTICUT.

J. F. Babcock,	Clay	Clay	Clay	Clay
C. W. Rockwell,	Clay	Clay	Clay	Clay
J. F. Tumbull,	Clay	Clay	Taylor	Taylor
Truman Smith,	Clay	Clay	Taylor	Taylor
N. J. White,	Clay	Clay	Clay	Clay
J. W. Stewart,	Clay	Clay	Taylor	Taylor

NEW YORK.

Isaac Platt,	Clay	Clay	Clay	Clay
J. W. Fowler,	Clay	Clay	Clay	Scott
J. Van Orden,	Clay	Clay	Clay	Clay
N. B. Hunt,	Clay	Clay	Clay	Clay
A. P. Granger,	Scott	Scott	Scott	Scott
L. Fairchild,	Clay	Clay	Clay	Clay
J. A. Collier,	Clay	Clay	Clay	Scott
S. S. Wyckoff,	Clay	Clay	Clay	Scott
H. Hart,	Clay	Clay	Clay	Clay
J. Fuller,	Clay	Clay	Clay	Clay
T. M. Foote,	Scott	Scott	Scott	Scott
James Kidd,	Clay	Clay	Clay	Clay
J. B. Merrill,	Scott	Scott	Clay	Clay
C. H. Carroll,	Clay	Clay	Clay	Scott
C. H. Hatway,	Clay	Clay	Clay	Scott
Samuel Works,	Clay	Clay	Clay	Scott
A. Chapman,	Webster	Webster	Clay	Taylor
W. M. Conkey,	Clay	Clay	Clay	Scott
Abner Baker,	Clay	Clay	Clay	Taylor
T. L. Faxton,	Clay	Clay	Clay	Scott
James Wells,	Clay	Clay	Clay	Clay
Russell Sage,	Clay	Clay	Clay	Clay
A. S. Murray,	Clay	Clay	Clay	Clay
J. B. Gedney,	Clay	Clay	Clay	Clay
H. B. Metcalf,	Clay	Clay	Clay	Clay
J. C. Clark,	Clay	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor
W. A. Sackett,	Scott	Scott	Scott	Scott
A. Hadden,	Clay	Clay	Clay	Clay
W. Tyson,	Clay	Clay	Clay	Clay

1st Ballot. 2d Ballot. 3d Ballot. 4th Ballot.

J. H. Boyd,	Clay	Clay	Scott	Taylor
B. Peck,	Clay	Clay	Clay	Taylor
H. T. Elle,	Clay	Clay	Clay	Clay
S. Schenck,	Clay	Clay	Taylor	Taylor
S. Russell,	Clay	Clay	Clay	Scott
G. W. Patterson,	Clayton	Clayton	Scott	Scott
D. S. Crandall,	Scott	Scott	Scott	Scott

NEW JERSEY.

J. H. Wakefield,	Clay	Clay	Taylor	Taylor
J. L. N. Stratton,	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor
Joseph Porter,	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor
F. McCullough,	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor
J. R. Cornell,	Clay	Clay	Clay	Clay
Wm. Wright,	Clay	Clay	Clay	Clay
T. B. Gautier,	Clay	Clay	Clay	Clay

PENNSYLVANIA.

Samuel Bell,	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor
W. F. Johnson,	Scott	Scott	Scott	Scott
J. Lindsay,	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor
Henry White,	Clay	Clay	Clay	Clay
S. C. Allen,	Clay	Clay	Clay	Clay
Samuel Ware,	Clay	Clay	Clay	Clay
J. G. Henderson,	Clay	Clay	Scott	Scott
Henry King,	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor
T. Haines,	Clay	Scott	Scott	Scott
T. E. Franklin,	Clay	Clay	Taylor	Taylor
Diller Luther,	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor
A. E. Brown,	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor
S. D. Phelps,	Clay	Clay	Taylor	Taylor
L. P. Weston,	Clay	Scott	Taylor	Taylor
Davis Taggart,	Clay	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor
T. M. Bingham,	Scott	Scott	Scott	Scott
David Horner,	Scott	Scott	Scott	Scott
E. M. Biddle,	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor
James Irvin,	Scott	Scott	Scott	Scott
F. M. Kimmell,	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor
Joseph Ottinger,	Scott	Scott	Scott	Scott
Wm. Henry,	Clay	Scott	Scott	Scott
T. F. Dale,	Clay	Clay	Clay	Clay
J. J. Pearson,	Scott	Scott	Scott	Scott
S. P. Johnson,	Clay	Scott	Scott	Scott
Thos. White,	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor

DELAWARE.

J. R. McFee,	Clayton	Clayton	Clayton	Taylor
N. B. Smithers,	Clayton	Clayton	Scott	Scott
John Wales,	Clayton	Clayton	Taylor	Taylor

MARYLAND.

Thos. G. Pratt,	Clay	Clay	Taylor	Taylor
J. C. Groome,	Clay	Clay	Clay	Taylor
D. Jenifer,	Clay	Clay	Clay	Taylor
George Schley,	Clay	Clay	Clay	Taylor
Wm. E. Wahle,	Clay	Clay	Clay	Taylor
G. Richardson,	Clay	Clay	Taylor	Taylor
L. Tighman,	Clay	Clay	Clay	Taylor
S. Hambleton, jr.,	Clay	Clay	Taylor	Taylor

VIRGINIA.

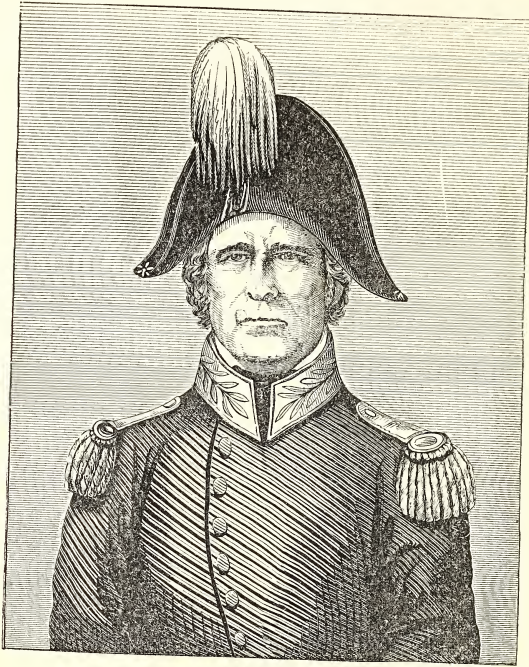
E. B. Hicks,	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor
W. S. Archer,	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor
V. W. Southall,	Clay	Clay	Clay	Taylor
John Janney,	Clay	Clay	Clay	Clay
M. Garnett, jr.,	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor
J. F. Wallis,	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor
Robt. Allen,	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor
E. P. Hunter,	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor
T. S. Flournoy,	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor
A. T. Caperton,	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor
W. B. Preston,	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor
B. R. Johnston,	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor
Carter Baxton,	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor
E. C. Wilson,	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor
Hill Carter,	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor
Wm. Seymour,	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor
W. P. Rathbun,	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor

NORTH CAROLINA.

G. W. Haywood,	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor
C. H. Wiley,	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor
N. L. Williams,	Clay	Clay	Scott	Taylor
Wm. Walker,	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor
J. M. Morehead,	Clay	Clay	Clay	Clay
N. Woodfin,	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor
D. B. Baker,	Clay	Clay	Taylor	Taylor
Edward Stanley,	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor
David Outlaw,	Clay	Clay	Clay	Taylor
Ed. Debuy,	Clay	Clay	Clay	Taylor
John Kerr,	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor

VOTES OF DELEGATES IN THE WHIG NATIONAL CONVENTION, PHILADELPHIA.

	1st Ballot.	2d Ballot.	3d Ballot.	4th Ballot.		1st Ballot.	2d Ballot.	3d Ballot.	4th Ballot.
SOUTH CAROLINA.									
E. Gammage,	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor	A. M. Ballentine,	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor
Geo. S. Bryan,	Clay	Clay	Clay	Clay	Col. Haskell,	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor
GEORGIA.									
G. W. Crawford,	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor	J. D. Defrees,	Scott	Scott	Scott	Scott
Merrywether,	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor	John Beard,	Scott	Scott	Scott	Scott
T. B. King,	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor	F. Boyd,	Scott	Scott	Taylor	Taylor
E. G. Cabiness,	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor	Milton Stapp,	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor
N. G. Foster,	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor	E. Conwell,	Scott	Scott	Scott	Taylor
W. Boynton,	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor	S. Meredith,	Clay	Clay	Clay	Clay
W. Y. Hansell,	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor	M. M. Ray,	Scott	Scott	Scott	Taylor
R. D. Moore,	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor	Jos. Warner,	Clay	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor
L. J. Gatrell,	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor	Daniel Sigler,	Scott	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor
W. W. Clark,	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor	R. C. Gregory,	Scott	Scott	Scott	Scott
ALABAMA.									
H. W. Hilliard,	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor	D. G. Rose,	Scott	Scott	Taylor	Taylor
C. C. Langdon,	Clay	Clay	Clay	Clay	G. W. Ewing,	Scott	Scott	Scott	Scott
R. W. Walker,	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor	ILLINOIS.				
R. O. Pickett,	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor	S. Lisle Smith,	Clay	Clay	Clay	Taylor
H. V. Smith,	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor	M. P. Sweet,	Scott	Scott	Scott	Taylor
J. W. Baldwin,	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor	Ezra Baker,	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor
John Gayle,	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor	R. H. Alston,	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor
MISSISSIPPI.									
H. P. Duncomb,	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor	I. Vandeventer,	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor
J. P. Pryor,	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor	J. W. Singleton,	Clay	Clay	Clay	Taylor
P. W. Tompkins,	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor	C. Coffin,	Clay	Clay	Clay	Taylor
James Dupree,	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor	J. B. Herrick,	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor
James Metcalf,	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor	MISSOURI.				
T. J. Johnson,	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor	T. E. Birch,	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor
LOUISIANA.									
L. Saunders,	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor	Caleb Fox,	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor
C. Bullitt,	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor	J. H. Edwards,	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor
S. J. Peters,	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor	W. Jewell,	no vote	no vote	no vote	Taylor
C. M. Conrad,	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor	John Peovy,	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor
G. B. Duncan,	Clay	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor	D. D. Mitchell,	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor
B. Winchester,	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor	A. Carr,	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor
OHIO.									
John Sherman,	Scott	Scott	Scott	Scott	ARKANSAS.				
Joseph Vance,	Scott	Scott	Scott	Scott	T. W. Newton,	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor
John Sloan,	Clay	Clay	Clay	Clay	T. W. Newton,	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor
L'Hommedieu,	Scott	Scott	Scott	Scott	T. W. Newton,	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor
L. D. Campbell,	Scott	Scott	Scott	Scott	MICHIGAN.				
B. Stanton,	Scott	Scott	Scott	Scott	Samuel Barstow,	Scott	Scott	Scott	Taylor
R. P. Huckland,	Scott	Scott	Scott	Scott	C. P. P. Babcock,	Clay	Clay	Clay	Taylor
H. L. Penn,	Scott	Scott	Scott	Scott	J. R. Williams,	Scott	Scott	Scott	Scott
S. Galloway,	Scott	Scott	Scott	Scott	H. M. Comstock,	Clay	Scott	Scott	Scott
James Collier,	Scott	Scott	Scott	Scott	E. W. Peck,	Clay	Clay	Scott	Scott
W. L. Perkins,	Scott	Scott	Scott	Scott	FLORIDA.				
H. B. Hurlbut,	Scott	Scott	Scott	Scott	Jno. Jamison, jr.,	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor
J. A. Bingham,	Scott	Scott	Scott	Scott	L. D. Hart,	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor
John Davenport,	M'Lean	Scott	Scott	Scott	J. Day,	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor
Samuel Bigger,	Scott	Scott	Scott	Scott	WISCONSIN.				
D. R. Tilden,	Scott	Scott	Scott	Scott	O. Cole,	Taylor	Taylor	Clay	Taylor
Nathan Gunn,	Scott	Scott	Scott	Scott	C. J. Hutchinson,	Clay	Clay	Clay	Taylor
H. Davison,	Scott	Scott	Scott	Scott	E. D. Murray,	Clay	Clay	Clay	Taylor
Peter Odlen,	Scott	Scott	Scott	Scott	H. E. Eastman,	Clay	Clay	Clay	Taylor
Edw. Hamilton,	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor	IOWA.				
V. Riche,	Scott	Scott	Scott	Scott	J. W. Grimes,	M'Lean	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor
V. B. Horton,	Scott	Scott	Scott	Scott	James M'Manus,	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor
John Cochran,	Scott	Scott	Scott	Scott	A. P. Porter,	Clay	Clay	Clay	Taylor
KENTUCKY.									
Robert Mallory,	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor	R. P. Low,	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor
G. T. Wood,	Clay	Clay	Clay	Taylor	TEXAS.				
W. R. Griffith,	Clay	Clay	Clay	Taylor	C. Bullitt,	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor
J. A. M'Leng,	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor	J. M. Wray,	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor
L. Beard,	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor	James Ritchie,	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor
J. A. Jackson,	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor	P. Maher,	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor
J. W. Hays,	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor	<i>Number of Votes on each Ballot for President.</i>				
Dr Bedinger,	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor		1st.	2d.	3d.	4th.
J. B. Houston,	Clay	Clay	Clay	Taylor	Taylor.....	111	118	133	171
L. B. Husbands,	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor	Clay.....	97	86	74	35
James Campbell,	Clay	Clay	Clay	Taylor	Scott.....	43	49	54	60
James Harlan,	Clay	Clay	Clay	Taylor	Webster.....	22	22	17	14
TENNESSEE.									
T. C. Bransford,	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor	Clayton.....	4	4	1	—
T. E. Whiteside,	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor	M'Lean.....	2	—	—	—
Wm. M. Cocke,	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor	Necessary for a choice....	140	140	140	141
M. P. Gentry,	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor	<i>Vote for Vice President.</i>				
E. H. Ewing,	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor	On the first ballot the vote was—for Millard Fillmore, N. Y., 115; Abbot Lawrence, Mass., 109; George Evans, Me., 6; Geo. Lunt, Mass., 1; T. B. King, Ga., 1; John Young, N. Y., 1; Sol. Foote, Vt., 1; Hamilton Fish, N. Y., 3; J. M. T. McKennon, Pa., 13; John Sergeant, Pa., 6; And. Stewart, Pa., 14; Thos. Ewing, Ohio, 1; Rufus Choate, Mass., 1; John M. Clayton, Del., 3. No choice.				
G. A. Henry,	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor	On the second ballot the vote was—for Fillmore, 173; Lawrence, 83; Sargeant, 1; Clayton, 3. Majority for Fillmore, 86.				
W. C. Roadman,	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor					
T. M. Vandyke,	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor					
John Bell,	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor					
W. B. Reese,	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor					
John A. Crozier,	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor	Taylor					



TAYLOR

J. Taylor

THE LIFE
OF
MAJOR-GENERAL
ZACHARY TAYLOR,

THE
WHIG NOMINEE
FOR
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

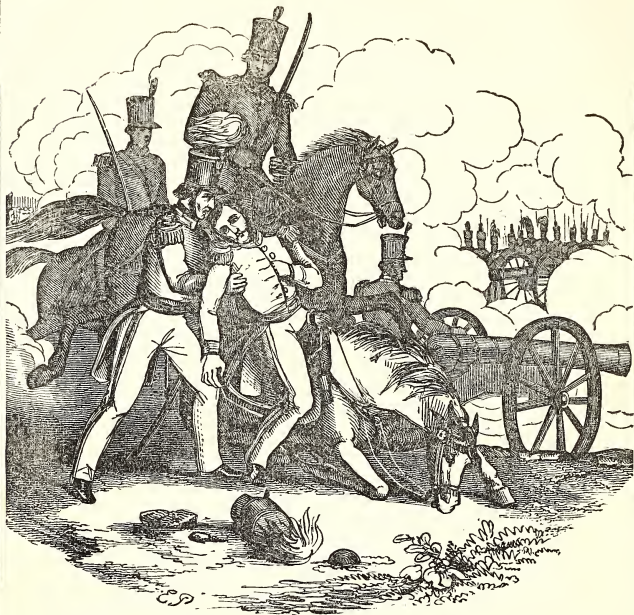
WITH
A BRIEF BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH
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BY ARTHUR SUMPTER, U.S.A.

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1848.



DEATH OF MAJOR RINGGOLD, AT PALO ALTO, MAY 8, 1846. (See page 20.)

Entered, according to Act of Congress, in the year 1848.

BY ENSIGNS & THAYER,

in the Clerk's Office of the District Court of the United States, in and for the Southern
District of New York.

P R E F A C E .

IN the preparation of the following pages, we have endeavored to compress, within as small a space as possible, the principal events in the life of one of the most eminent of living American generals, and now distinguished by being a nominee for the highest office, both civil and military, in the gift of the people of our republic. Being entirely unprejudiced, and unshackled by party bias, we think we have made our record without any feeling of partiality; and we have had no other object in view, while preparing this little volume, than to present to the American people a faithful sketch of the public life of him who now asks their suffrage at the ballot-box. With this disclaimer of all party interest (and we appeal to the book as evidence of the truth of our disclaimer), we send it forth.

C O N T E N T S .

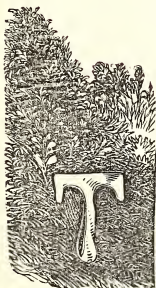
Birth and Parentage of GENERAL TAYLOR.—His Early Years.—Appointed Lieutenant in the Army.—Battle of Tippecanoe.—Placed in command of Fort Harrison.—Defence of Fort Harrison.—Promoted to Major.—Conclusion of the War.—Injustice to Officers.—Resigns his Commission.—Is reinstated.—Promoted to Colonel.—The Black-Hawk War.—Anecdote illustrating his Firmness.—Conducts Black Hawk to Jefferson Barracks.—The Seminole War.—Battle of Okeechobee.—Appointed brevet Brigadier-General.—Ordered to the Command of the First Department of the Army in the Southwest.—Ordered to the Texan Frontier.—Scope of his Instructions.—Encamps at Corpus Christi.—March toward Matamoras.—Ampudia in Command of the Mexicans.—His Letter to General Taylor.—General Taylor's Reply.—Ampudia superseded by Arista.—Peril of Point Isabel.—Bombardment of Fort Brown.—Battles of Palo Alto and Resaca de la Palma.—Death of Major Ringgold. Capture of General La Vega.—Americans Victorious.—Flight of the Mexicans from Matamoras.—March to Monterey.—Arrival at Monterey.—Storming of the City.—Surrender of the Mexicans.—Preparations for a Winter Campaign.—Meeting of the opposing Armies at Buena Vista.—Santa Anna's Demand for Surrender.—Taylor's Refusal.—Battle of Buena Vista.—Encampment at Walnut Springs.—General Taylor's Return Home.—His Reception.—His Letters concerning the Presidency.—His Nomination by the Whig National Convention.—His Person and Character.

Hon. MILLARD FILLMORE, page 32.



SIEGE OF MONTEREY.

THE LIFE
OF
GENERAL TAYLOR.



HE immediate ancestors of General Taylor held rank among the first families in Virginia, and were connected with those whose names are enviably conspicuous in the past history of our country, such as Madison, Lee, Barbour, Conway, Gaines, Pendleton, &c.

His father, Richard Taylor, was a man of singular moral and physical courage, and when very young he traversed the wilderness west from Virginia to the Mississippi River, a region never before trodden by the foot of the white man. He went alone, without either a companion or a guide, and having explored the Father of Waters as far south as Natchez, he turned his face eastward, and *walked* back to the Old Dominion, fearless of the perils amid mountains, and rivers, and savage beasts, or more savage men. He was afterward a Colonel of the Virginia militia, and was always highly esteemed in that capacity, during the Revolution, for his courage and manliness of character. At the age of thirty-five years he married Sarah Strother, a young lady of excellent family, and fifteen years his junior.

Their third child was the subject of this memoir, whom they named ZACHARY, in memory of a maternal ancestor. He was born in Orange county, Virginia, on the twenty-fourth day of November, 1784, and is now^a sixty-three years old. In 1785, Colonel Taylor ^{a 1847.} emigrated to Kentucky, in pursuance of a long-cherished design. He had been preceded by his brother, Hancock Taylor, who had made long and toilsome surveys in the valleys of the Ohio and Mississippi, and who, just previous to his death,* selected for his farm, upon which to locate, the site of the present city of Louisville.

Colonel Taylor settled in Jefferson county, about five miles from Louisville, and among the hardy emigrants, and the perils of border

* He was surprised and killed by a party of Indians, near the falls of the Ohio.

His early Years.—Appointed Lieutenant in the U. S. Army.

life, the childhood of Zachary was passed. As has been justly remarked, these hardships and dangers "were as familiar to him as ease and security to the child of metropolitan luxury."^{*}

Louisville soon became a place of some note, and with its advancement, the fortune of Colonel Taylor increased; and when it became a "port of entry," he was appointed collector by Washington, with whom he was personally intimate before leaving Virginia.

The sparse population of Kentucky at the period of Zachary's childhood rendered the support of efficient schools impossible, and the care of his early education devolved upon his parents. The consequence was, that his early years were more devoted to observation, and the reception of lessons in physical exploits, than in study; yet this deficiency was afterwards compensated by an active and untiring mind, that mastered every problem presented to it.

After the successful expedition of General Wayne against the Western Indians,^a and the comparative security of the settlements,^{a 1794.} emigration rapidly increased the population of Kentucky, and agriculture and commerce started hand in hand in building up the prosperity of the Great West. Young Taylor having been trained to agriculture, pursued it perseveringly and industriously; yet he felt an irresistible desire to enter the army, as a life more congenial to his taste, for he was really a "chip of the old block," nurtured, as he had been, among the alarms and perils that excited and surrounded the hardy emigrants. A stepping-stone to the service soon offered. When Aaron Burr's operations at the West excited suspicion and alarm, young Taylor, with one or two of his brothers, formed a volunteer corps to oppose his supposed treasonable designs. Their services were not needed, and Zachary returned to his farm.

On the death of his brother, Lieutenant Taylor, who was an officer in the regular service of the United States, Zachary obtained the vacancy,[†] and received a commission from President Jefferson,^b as first lieutenant in the seventh regiment of United States infantry. He was then twenty-four years of age, and in possession of a competent fortune, but he chose to relinquish the quiet life of a farmer, and engage in the perilous vocation of a soldier. He was ordered to report himself to General Wilkinson, then at New Orleans, which act nearly cost him his life. He was attacked there by yellow fever, and was obliged to return home and recruit his health. During his parole, he devoted himself assiduously to the study of his profession, and his proficiency was soon made manifest by circumstances.

^{*} Fry's Life of General Taylor.

[†] This was accomplished through the influence of his father, and his relatives, James Madison and Major Edmund Taylor.

Battle of Tippecanoe.—Placed in command of Fort Harrison.

For a long time the aggressions of England had been engendering hatred in the public mind of America, and the crowning act of her indignities was the excitement of the Indian tribes against the frontier settlements, by emissaries sent among them. Tecumseh and his brother Olliwachica, called the Prophet, had been fully won to the English interest, and our government discovered that a general league was forming against the Americans,* among the tribes hitherto apparently friendly, and it was resolved to take early steps to avert the gathering storm. General Harrison, then governor of the Northwestern Territory,† was ordered to march a competent force into the Indian country. To this expedition Lieutenant Taylor was attached,‡ and at the bloody battle of Tippecanoe,^a his gallant services won the highest esteem of his commander. They were appreciated by President Madison, who soon after gave him a captain's commission. ^a May 7, 1811.

During the winter active hostilities ceased, and early in the spring of 1812, Captain Taylor was placed in command of Fort Harrison, on the Wabash, and at this period commences his career as a military commander. Fully aware of the extent of the savage league, and of the great abilities of Tecumseh and his associates, Captain Taylor at once prepared for a desperate encounter, which he knew must soon take place. He also knew that the Indians were aware of his weakness, and he used his utmost vigilance to prevent a surprise.

Three months after war with Great Britain was formally declared, the tribes were banded for the service of exterminating the whites, and their minds were inflamed to the highest pitch. Fort Harrison was the first object of attack, and, although Tecumseh knew that the garrison was weak,§ he preferred to exercise cunning, and gain by stratagem what he might, perhaps, have accomplished by overwhelming force.|| Accordingly, on the evening of the fourth of September,^b a deputation from the Prophet approached the fort, with a white flag of peace. But Captain Taylor was not deceived, and he made preparations for an assault. At night a watch was set, and the remainder retired to rest. About eleven o'clock at night the report of a musket was heard, and Captain Taylor, springing from his bed, found the savage foe upon him. The sentinels were driven in from their posts, ^b 1812.

* British promises and British gold had bribed the savages to prepare for a general extermination of all the whites on the frontiers. This fiendish act of the British government has ever been execrated, as one of the most inhuman on record.

† This Territory included the present States of Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, and Illinois.

‡ He was married in 1810 to Miss Smith, one of the first families in Maryland, and sister of the late Major S. R. Smith, of the marine corps. He left his young wife and infant when he went to the camp.

§ Captain Taylor's force consisted of only about fifty men, and nearly two thirds of those were invalids from the effects of fever. He himself was just recovering from a severe attack.

|| Captain Taylor had evidence of their proximity and intentions, by the murder of two young men in a field near the fort on the third, whose scalps were borne away as trophies.

 Defence of Fort Harrison.—Promoted to Major.

the lower building (a block-house) of the fort was on fire, and the entire destruction of the garrison seemed inevitable.

The commander did not lose his self-possession, and while he directed a part of his force to extinguish the flames, the other returned the fire from the fort. It was too dark to see the foe, and many of the shot were ineffectual. For seven long hours, the savages, with hideous yells, in anticipation of triumph, maintained the attack, but at length, appalled by the continued musket shots from the fort, that thinned their ranks, and doubtless believing the garrison to be much stronger than they anticipated, they moved off down the river about six o'clock in the morning, after destroying all the provisions of the garrison, and killing or carrying off all the horses and cattle. Captain Taylor lost only three men, while the Indians evidently suffered severely. In a despatch, dated September 10th, Captain Taylor gave to General Harrison an admirable account of the battle, in which his modesty, and sound common sense, are alike conspicuous.

The Indians were dispirited at this defeat, yet the garrison expected another attack, and Captain Taylor sent to General Harrison an earnest application for relief, as they were reduced to great need by sickness and lack of provisions.* A large force was immediately sent, under General Hopkins, and the gallant little band were saved from destruction.†

This battle, although few were engaged, exhibited all the types of bravery and military skill on the part of the commander, which the generals of vast armies might be proud of; and the same indomitable courage and consummate management which have so distinguished General Taylor in Mexico, were there not only shadowed forth, but actually exhibited.

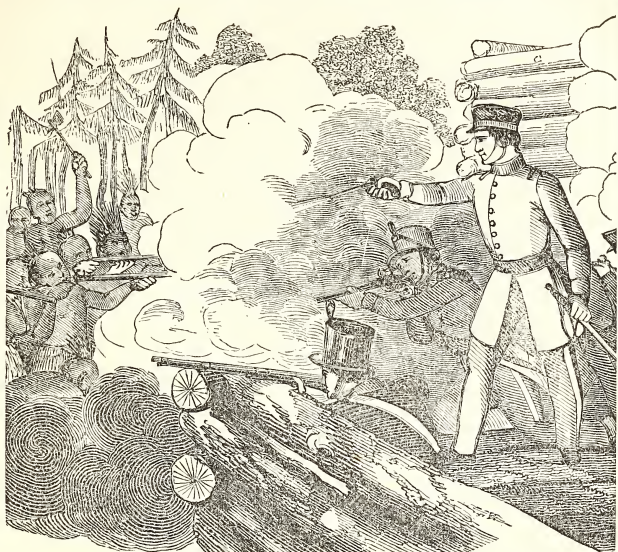
The whole country rang with praises of the achievement and its brave actors, and the President at once conferred upon Captain Taylor the rank of Major, by brevet.‡

The Indians, although defeated at Fort Harrison, still persisted in their depredations, destroying property and murdering the inhabitants, whenever opportunity offered. On the arrival of General Hopkins, he organized an expedition against them, and commenced his march about

* Captain Taylor's first attempt to communicate with his general at Vincennes failed, owing to the vigilance of the foe, who kept watch-fires burning upon the banks of the river. He despatched messengers by land, and they reached their destination in safety. The little garrison was rescued from starvation, four days after the battle, by Colonel Russel and a party of Rangers, who were sent to their relief.

† General Harrison, in a letter to the Governor of Kentucky, said, "The firm and almost unparalleled defence of Fort Harrison by Captain Zachary Taylor has raised for him a fabric of character not to be effaced by eulogy."

‡ This is a French word, and signifies a royal act in writing, conferring some privilege or distinction. It is applied in England and America, in military affairs, to a commission giving nominal rank higher than that for which pay is received. Thus, a brevet major serves and draws pay as a captain.



DEFENCE OF FORT HARRISON, SEPT. 4, 1812. (See page 10.)



BATTLE OF OKEE-CHO-BEE, DECEMBER 25, 1837. (See page 14.)

Resigns his Commission.—Is reinstated.—Promoted to Colonel.

the middle of October. But his volunteers evinced insubordination, which, in a few days, became so general, that, at a council of officers, General Hopkins resolved to abandon the expedition. He resumed it, however, in the course of November, and several skirmishes ensued, in which Major Taylor was conspicuous, and was officially commended for his bravery. The winter closed in, both parties ceased hostilities, and during the remainder of the war no opportunity offered for our young officer to distinguish himself. After the close of the war, the injustice of government caused him to throw up his commission and quit the service; and he retired to his family, and re-engaged in agricultural pursuits.*

The influence of powerful friends, and the knowledge of his great services, resulted in his being reinstated in the course of the year,^a by President Madison, and in 1816 he was again called ^{a 1815.} from the bosom of his family to endure the privations of the camp. He was ordered to Green Bay, at which port he remained in command four years. In 1819, he was promoted to the rank of lieutenant-colonel. From that period until 1832, he was in the constant service of his country on the Western and Northwestern frontiers, except during temporary absences, on account of the illness of his wife. In 1822, he erected Fort Jessup, and opened a military road to that port. In 1824, he was ordered to Washington, and was made one of a board of commissioners for planning and erecting Jefferson Barracks. In 1826, he was one of a board of officers of the army and militia (of which General Scott was president), appointed to consider and submit to the Secretary of War a system for the organization of the militia of the United States. Soon after the adjournment of the board, he resumed his duties on the Northwestern frontier, but without occasion to meet a foe in combat. For five years he was there, but not in idleness; for when unemployed in his duties as a strict disciplinarian, he was studiously engaged in perfecting himself in his profession.

In 1832, Taylor received a commission from President Jackson, appointing him Colonel, and in this capacity his skill and bravery were distinguished in the border war known as the Black Hawk war.† That gallant chief, with his brother, the Prophet, having defeated an American volunteer force near Rock River,^b the people of Illinois ^{b May 14, 1832.} became greatly alarmed, and the Secretary of War ordered about a thousand regular soldiers to the scene of action. General Scott

* Many promotions made during the war, were annulled at its close; and in this sweeping depreciation, Major Taylor was not overlooked. He was again reduced to the rank of captain, which indignity he would not brook.

† Black Hawk was a chief of the Sac Indians, and his slaughter of the white settlers upon the frontier was in a measure, we are sorry to say, induced by the perfidy of our own people, his flag of truce having been twice fired upon, and the bearer each time killed.

The Black Hawk War.—Anecdote illustrating his Firmness.

took command of the army, and for three months a most bloody strife ensued. In July,^a General Atkinson arrived at the scene of action, with two thousand five hundred men, including four hundred regulars, under Colonel Taylor. Towards the close of the month, the Indians having commenced a retreat into the wilderness, General Atkinson ordered a pursuit, and thirteen hundred men, under Colonel Taylor, were detached for the service. With singular perseverance, he succeeded in overtaking the Indians near the junction of the Mississippi and Iowa rivers, where a desperate conflict ensued, which resulted in the total rout of the savages. In the course of a month thereafter, Black Hawk, who escaped, was betrayed into the hands of Colonel Taylor, by faithless allies, and with his capture, or rather custody, the war ended. Colonel Taylor conveyed the old chief and his fellow-prisoners to Jefferson Barracks.^b* Taylor was soon after ordered to Prairie du Chien, to the command of Fort Crawford, a fortress built under his superintendence. There he remained until 1836, when government ordered him to Florida, to assist in reducing the Seminole Indians to submission.†

^a July 4.
^b Sept.,
1832

* The Editor of the "Literary World," in some excellent reminiscences of Western Life, in which he gives some admirable sketches of Taylor, relates the following characteristic anecdote of "Rough and Ready," as Taylor has been appropriately called:—"Some time after Silliman's defeat by Black Hawk's band, Taylor, marching, with a large body of volunteers and a handful of regulars, in pursuit of the Indian force, found himself approaching Rock River, then asserted by many to be the true north-western boundary of Illinois. The volunteers, as Taylor was informed, would refuse to cross the stream. They were militia, they said, called out for the defence of the State, and it was unconstitutional to order them to march beyond its frontier into the Indian country. Taylor thereupon halted his command, and encamped within the acknowledged boundary of Illinois. He would not budge an inch farther without orders. He had already driven Black Hawk out of the State, but the question of crossing Rock River seemed hugely to trouble his ideas of integrity to the Constitution on one side, and military expediency on the other. During the night, however, orders came, either from General Scott or General Atkinson, for him to follow up Black Hawk to the last. The quietness of the regular colonel, meanwhile, had rather encouraged the mutinous militia to bring their proceedings to a head. A sort of town meeting was called upon the prairie, and Taylor invited to attend. After listening some time very quietly to the proceedings, it became 'Rough and Ready's' turn to address the chair. 'He had heard,' he said, 'with much pleasure, the views which several speakers had expressed of the independence and dignity of each private American citizen. He felt that all gentlemen then present were his equals—in reality, he was persuaded that many of them would, in a few years, be his superiors, and perhaps, in the capacity of members of Congress, arbiters of the fortune and reputation of humble servants of the Republic, like himself. He expected then to obey them as interpreters of the will of the people; and the best proof he could give that he *would* obey them, was now to observe the orders of those whom the people had already put in the places of authority, to which many gentlemen around him justly aspired. In plain English, gentlemen and fellow-citizens, the word has been passed on to me from Washington, to follow Black Hawk, and to take you with me as soldiers. I mean to do both. There are the flat-boats drawn up on the shore, and there are Uncle Sam's men drawn up behind you on the prairie.'" Their constitutional scruples were quieted, and they crossed Rock River.

† The Seminole Indians, occupying a portion of Florida, were required by the United States government to emigrate to the west of the Mississippi. They refused to comply, and a daring chief, who rose to influence from a private man of his tribe, named Osceola, took the leadership, and openly declared against the whites. Murders were committed on the frontiers, and at one time even St. Augustine was threatened by the savages. General Clinch had command of the United States troops in that section, and on the 23d of December, 1835, two companies, under Major Dade, while marching to join the camp of General Clinch, were surprised by the Indians, and were all massacred, after a terrible resistance, except three men. Open war now commenced. Many Creeks joined the Seminoles, and the United States government was obliged to send a strong force there.

The war with the Seminoles began in 1835, and when Colonel Taylor reached Florida, it had been prosecuted with indifferent success. General Jessup then had command in Florida, and had made fruitless attempts to bring the war to a close. All friendly conferences with the chiefs having failed, it was determined, in the autumn of 1837, to take more active measures against the Indians. Unlimited scope was given to Colonel Taylor to capture or destroy the savages, wherever they might be found. Accordingly, Taylor, with about eleven hundred men, left Fort Gardner,^a and through dense thickets of palmetto, ^{a Dec. 20,} and cypress, and the luxuriant herbage of a wet soil, they ^{1837.} made their way towards the everglades, where the foe was concealed.

On the 25th of December, they reached a cypress swamp, where they had evidence that a large body of the enemy were near. They crossed the swamp, and reached a large prairie, upon the opposite side of which, in a dense "hammock," according to the statement of an Indian prisoner, the enemy were encamped. Taylor disposed his army in battle array, and hurried towards the hammock, or morass. They had penetrated but a short distance, when they were suddenly attacked by several hundred red warriors, with their rifles. The shock was a terrible one, and several officers were killed or severely wounded at the first fire. Seeing their leaders fall, the volunteers at first gave way, but their places were soon filled by the regulars, who eagerly pressed on. The sixth infantry, that engaged in the thickest of the fight, were led by Lieutenant-Colonel Thompson, as brave an officer as ever drew sword. He received two bullet wounds at the first fire, but kept on at the head of his regiment until a third ball deprived him of life.* The battle at this point lasted for more than an hour, when the savages were driven from their position, to their camp on the border of Lake Okeechobee. Finding themselves hotly pursued, and likely to be overcome, the Indians fired one volley of rifle balls and fled, closely pursued by the regulars and volunteers, until night closed in. This battle of Okeechobee will ever be memorable in our annals of Indian wars, as one of the most remarkable for bravery and skill on both sides. The loss of the Indians could not be ascertained, but it was known to be great, while our own loss amounted to fourteen officers, and one hundred and twenty-four privates, killed and wounded—about one fifth of the whole number of white troops engaged.†

Being thus pursued into their very strongholds, and there defeated,

* Major Sconce, Captain Childs, Lieutenants Rogers, Haas, and Gordon, were killed in the first terrible onslaught. Several others soon after perished, among whom were Adjutant Center, Captain Van Swearingin, and Lieutenant Brooks.

† The humanity and kindness of Colonel Taylor were signally manifested on this occasion in the case of the wounded and dying, and excited the love of his comrades, as keenly as it did their admiration of his courage.

Appointed brevet Brigadier-General.—Ordered to command First Department of Army in Southwest.

the Indians were discouraged, and the battle of Okee-cho-bee gave a death-blow to the power and daring defiance of the Seminoles. Many of them surrendered, and, although outrages were frequently committed by small parties of savages for a year or two afterwards, they were never fully organized as a nation, or tribe, in opposition to the whites.

Colonel Taylor was highly complimented by the Secretary of War; received the thanks of the President of the United States, officially communicated by General Macomb, then commander-in-chief of the armies of the United States; and was soon after promoted to the rank of Brigadier-General, by brevet, for "distinguished services in the battle of Okee-cho-bee, in Florida."

Soon after his promotion,^a he was honored with the command of the troops in Florida, General Jessup having been recalled, at his own request. For two years more he toiled on amid the morasses and fevers of that region, frequently skirmishing with the Indians, but quite unable entirely to "conquer a peace." At his own request, he was relieved from the command, and was succeeded by General Armistead in April, 1840.*

But relief from arduous duty in Florida did not prove relief from services less important and honorable. His distinguished talents were too well known and appreciated, to allow him to remain idle, or to be stationed at a post of inactivity. He was therefore immediately appointed to the command of the First Department of the United States Army in the Southwest. This department included the four States at the extreme southwestern part of the Union, Alabama, Mississippi, Arkansas, and Louisiana. He made his headquarters at Fort Jessup until 1841, when he was ordered to Fort Gibson to relieve General Arbuckle, where he remained nearly five years, constantly engaged in the disciplining of the troops, and other services pertaining to his station.

When, on the first of March, 1845, the Congress of the United States passed an act for the admission of Texas into the Union, and the Mexican Minister at Washington (General Almonte) entered his protest against the act, in the name of his government, and asked for his passports, it became evident that the adoption of the new foster child would be the cause of trouble with our sister Republic. It being evident,

* Towards the close of 1839, General Taylor approved of the movement of the local authorities of Florida, in the procurement of bloodhounds from Cuba, to hunt the Indians. The nature of this act, when fully understood, exculpates General Taylor, and those concerned, from the charges of barbarous cruelty which, at the time, were brought against them. The dogs were used, not to worry and kill the savages, by any means, "but," in the language of General Taylor himself in a letter to the war department, "only to ascertain where the Indians could be found,—not to injure them." They were muzzled, and in many instances controlled by leashes, and were used only to scent out the hiding-places of the foe, for it was impossible for the troops to find them, while, under cover of night, they were murdering and plundering the inhabitants along the frontier. The dogs proved incompetent for the purpose, and the scheme was abandoned.

from the character of the Mexican government, and the faithfulness of her ruler, that diplomacy could not be depended upon to produce a reconciliation, our government felt a necessity of turning its attention to the military arm as a protection for the citizens of Texas from the violence of Mexican armies, which, it was believed, would be put in motion towards the north, as soon as the final action of our government on the subject of the annexation of Texas should be known. Accordingly, early in May, 1845, General Taylor received an order from the Secretary of War, to place all the forces then under his command, or that should thereafter be put under his control, in the most eligible position for an immediate entrance into Texas, if necessary for its defence.

We shall not stop here to inquire into the wisdom or policy of this incipient movement, or discuss the justice or injustice of the war in which we were engaged. We shall simply perform the duty of a chronicler of transpired events, and leave all inferences, and all opinions of the necessity and justice of the course of our government, to the candid judgments of those who are now, and have been for nearly three years, "lookers-on in Vienna." We desire to give only a narrative of facts, and shall not enter into any discussions of *right* or *policy* in the matter, but shall confine ourselves to those incidents of the war connected with the life of the hero whose brief memoir we are penning.

But to return. The instruction from the War Department to General Taylor were confidential,* and the extensive range of operations left to his discretion is a proof of the unlimited confidence which the government reposed in his judgment and ability. Another communication was sent to him in June (which reached him early in July), informing him that the acceptance of the terms of annexation, by Texas, would doubtless take place on the 4th of July ensuing, and ordering him to advance with his troops to the mouth of the Sabine river, or such other point on the Gulf of Mexico, or upon its navigable tributaries, as would be most eligible for the purpose of proceeding to the western frontier of the new State, on or near the Rio Grande del Norte (the Great North river). The order limited his operations, however, to a simple defence of the Territory of Texas, but including in that territory the disputed region between the Neuces and the Rio Grande; the former being claimed by Mexico, as the extreme western limit of the State of Texas.

In a letter from the War Department, sent soon after the order for

* From the phraseology of the orders, General Taylor fully understood their meaning. The Secretary said, that the moment Texas accepted, by a convention of the people, the terms of annexation offered by the United States, she would be regarded as "a part of the United States, so far as to be entitled from this government to a *defence from foreign invasion*," &c.—*Order of Secretary Marcy, May, 1845.*

Encamps at Corpus Christi.—March towards Matamoras.

his march towards the Gulf, the Secretary said, "Should Mexico assemble a large body of troops on the Rio Grande, and cross it with considerable force, such a movement must be regarded as an invasion of the United States, and the commencement of hostilities. You will, of course, use all the authority which has been, or may be, given you, to meet such a state of things. Texas must be protected from hostile invasion; and for that purpose, you will of course employ, to the utmost extent, all the means you possess, or can command."

As soon as General Taylor received these instructions, he proceeded with a force of fifteen hundred men^a to New Orleans, where he embarked, and early in August reached St. Joseph's Island, from which point he again embarked for Corpus Christi, near the mouth of the Nueces, and there he established his headquarters.^b

Soon after his arrival at Corpus Christi, General Taylor was reinforced by seven companies of infantry under Major Brown, and two volunteer artillery companies under Major Gally. With this force he remained at Corpus Christi during the winter.* Early in the spring^c the camp at Corpus Christi was broken up, and a portion of the "Army of Occupation" proceeded to the Rio Grande, opposite Matamoras, and another portion to Point Isabel.

The winter had been spent in thorough discipline, and all the troops, regular and volunteer, had become greatly attached to their commander, and were glad of an opportunity to be employed in more active service than camp duty. The march of the army towards Matamoras was a dreary one indeed, and they suffered every endurable privation in passing over the barren prairies. They were threatened by Mexicans on the route; and when approaching Point Isabel, a deputation of citizens met them, and presented to General Taylor a protest, signed by the Prefect of the Northern District of the Department of Tamaulipas, against the presence of his army. He promised them an answer when he should arrive upon the Rio Grande, and then passed on. When he arrived at Point Isabel, he found his supplies there, which he had sent by water, and having made a proper disposition of his forces, proceeded with a large body towards the Rio Grande, opposite Matamoras, where he arrived on the 29th of March.^d

After pitching their tents, they began the erection of defensive works, and in a few days quite a formidable fortification was raised, fronting

* In the mean while, our government made overtures to the Mexican government, proposing an amicable settlement of all existing difficulties; and in these overtures, in which an offer to send a minister to Mexico was made, a favorable answer was received. A minister was sent, but when he arrived, a revolution, headed by General Paredes, was in progress, which proved successful, and the new government, at the head of which was the successful General, refused to receive him. Negotiations were then abandoned, and defensive preparations made on our Texan frontier.

Ampudia in command of the Mexicans.—His Letter to Taylor.

Matamoras.* In the mean while, Paredes had sent General Ampudia to take command of the Mexican army on the Rio Grande. He arrived on the 11th of April, and the next day he sent the following communication to General Taylor, by a deputation of officers, bearing a flag:†

FOURTH MILITARY DIVISION, }
General-in-Chief. }

To explain to you the many grounds for the just grievances felt by the Mexican nation, caused by the United States government, would be a loss of time, and an insult to your good sense; I therefore pass at once to such explanations as I consider of absolute necessity.

Your government, in an incredible manner—you will even permit me to say, an extravagant one, if the usage and general rules established and received among all civilized nations are regarded—has not only insulted, but has exasperated the Mexican nation, bearing its conquering banner to the left bank of the Rio Bravo del Norte; and in this case, by explicit and definite orders of my government, which neither can, will, nor should receive new outrages, I require you in all form, and, at latest, in the peremptory term of twenty-four hours, to break up your camp and retire to the other bank of the Nueces River, while our governments are regulating the pending questions in relation to Texas. If you insist in remaining upon the soil of the department of Tamaulipas, it will clearly result that arms, and arms alone, must decide the question; and in that case I advise you that we accept the war to which, with so much injustice on your part, you provoke us, and that, on our part, this war shall be conducted conformably to the principles established by the most civilized nations; that is to say, that the law of nations and of war shall be the guide of my operations; trusting that on your part the same will be observed.

With this view, I tender you the considerations due to your person and respectable office.

God and Liberty!

HEADQUARTERS AT MATAMORAS, }
 2 o'clock, P. M., April 12 1846. }

PEDRO DE AMPUDIA.

Sr. General-in-Chief of the U. S. Army, DON Z. TAYLOR.

* The fortification was called Fort Brown, in honor of Major Brown, the commanding officer. It was erected under the superintendence of Captain Mansfield, and was large enough to accommodate about two thousand men.

† We desired to give these occurrences more in detail, but our allotted space is so very circumscribed, that we shall omit all lengthy documents in future, and adhere simply to incidents in the life of General Taylor.

General Taylor's reply to Ampudia.—Ampudia superseded by Arista.

General Taylor immediately replied to this communication as follows :

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF OCCUPATION, }
Camp near Matamoras, Texas, April 12, 1846. }

SEÑOR :—I have had the honor to receive your note of this date, in which you summon me to withdraw the forces under my command from their present position, and beyond the river Nueces, until the pending question between our governments, relative to the limits of Texas, shall be settled.

I need hardly advise you that, charged as I am, in only a military capacity, with the performance of specific duties, I cannot enter into a discussion of the international question involved in the advance of the American army. You will, however, permit me to say that the government of the United States has constantly sought a settlement, by negotiation, of the question of boundary ; that an envoy was despatched to Mexico for that purpose, and that, up to the most recent dates, said envoy had not been received by the actual Mexican government, if indeed he has not received his passports and left the Republic. In the mean time, I have been ordered to occupy the country up to the left bank of the Rio Grande, until the boundary shall be definitely settled. In carrying out these instructions, I have carefully abstained from all acts of hostility, obeying, in this regard, not only the letter of my instructions, but the plain dictates of justice and humanity.

The instructions under which I am acting will not permit me to retrograde from the position I now occupy. In view of the relations between our respective governments, and the individual suffering which may result, I regret the alternative which you offer ; but at the same time, wish it understood that I shall by no means avoid such alternative, leaving the responsibility with those who rashly commence hostilities. In conclusion, you will permit me to give you the assurance that, on my part, the laws and customs of war among civilized nations shall be carefully observed.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
 Z. TAYLOR,

Brevet Brig. Gen. U. S. A. Commanding.

Sr. Gen. D. PEDRO DE AMPUDIA.

Ampudia was soon after succeeded by General Arista, the commander-in-chief of the northern division of the Mexican army, whose reported reinforcements made it probable that some decisive action would soon take place, consequently the defences of Fort Brown were carried on vigorously. On the 19th it was reported to General Taylor, that two vessels with supplies for the Mexicans in Matamoras, were at the mouth

of the Rio Grande. He immediately ordered a blockade of the river, and enforced it by placing the U. S. brig *Lawrence* and a revenue cutter to guard its mouth.* To this act Arista took umbrage, and having sent a note of remonstrance to General Taylor, and receiving no satisfactory answer, he prepared to make an attack upon Fort Brown.

In the mean while it became evident that Point Isabel was also a place of contemplated attack, and rumors were rife that a large Mexican force were crossing the river† for that purpose. This report, and the information received by the hands of Captain Walker, of the Texan Rangers, from Major Monroe, the commander at Point Isabel, of the attack of a party of Mexicans upon a wagon train, gave General Taylor much anxiety, for all his army supplies were at the Point. He accordingly sent a despatch to the governors of Louisiana and Texas, asking an immediate reinforcement of four regiments of volunteers from each State. Pending the result of this requisition, General Taylor resolved to march to the relief of Point Isabel with his whole army, except a sufficient force of infantry and artillery, which were to occupy Fort Brown, then placed in a position to sustain a bombardment.

On the morning of the first of May,^a General Taylor commenced his march towards Point Isabel, which place he reached in safety. The Mexican general supposed this movement was a retreat, and at once ordered his troops across the Rio Grande, not doubting that if he could not cut off the retreat of the main body of the American army, he would speedily cause the handful in garrison, in Fort Brown, to surrender.

During the night of the 4th the Mexicans erected a battery in the rear of Fort Brown, and the next morning opened a tremendous fire upon the fort. Simultaneously with this attack, the batteries at Matamoras poured in upon them shells in abundance. The fire was kept up incessantly from each point until the afternoon of the 6th, when Arista sent a summons to surrender.‡ This was refused, and the firing commenced again. For four days the fort withstood the iron storm, and on the fifth the thunder of artillery from the northeast proclaimed to the beleaguered garrison that aid was approaching in answer to their signal-guns of distress.

That booming of cannon proved to be more than mere answers to sig-

* When General Taylor was ordered to the Rio Grande, a small naval force was sent to the Gulf to protect the Texan coast.

† To ascertain the truth of these reports, General Taylor sent out a scouting party under Capt. Thornton, up the river, and a squadron of dragoons under Captain Kerr, down the river. The former were surprised by a party of Mexicans, and nearly all were taken prisoners. Lieutenant Mason was killed in the affray; Capt. Thornton escaped by an extraordinary leap of his horse over a hedge.

‡ The bomb-proof shelters erected by Major Brown, made the shots and shells of the enemy almost inefficient. The gallant commander, however, was killed at the commencement, and was succeeded by Captain Hawkins.

Battles of "Palo Alto" "Resaca de la Palma."—Death of Major Ringgold.

nal-guns—it was the thunder of combat upon the field of Palo Alto. General Taylor, who reached Point Isabel in safety, had heard the signals of distress at Fort Brown, and, at the head of two thousand three hundred men, and a supply train of nearly three hundred wagons, he started^a for the relief of the gallant garrison. Early the next morning^b scouts gave notice that a Mexican force was drawn up in battle array at the verge of the prairie over which they were marching to oppose his progress. He immediately prepared for action, and at two o'clock in the afternoon, gave orders to advance. It was soon ascertained that the enemy's force was about six thousand strong; but, undaunted, the brave Taylor pressed forward to conflict. The battle was a terrible one, and lasted until nearly sunset. It resulted in the complete victory of the Americans. The Mexicans dispersed and retreated behind the chapparal,* and that night the gallant Americans slept upon the battle-field.

During the engagement, Major Ringgold, one of the bravest officers in the army, while doing terrible execution upon the enemy with his flying artillery, was struck by a cannon ball, which entered one thigh, passed through his horse, and out through his other thigh, and both horse and rider fell to the ground mortally wounded. The loss of the Americans was nine killed, and forty-four wounded. That of the Mexicans was reported at six hundred.

The next morning,^c General Taylor, having sent the wounded back to Point Isabel, resumed his march for the Rio Grande, but fully prepared for an expected attack from the enemy, who had rallied, and had been reinforced during the night. Passing through an opening in the chapparal, they came to a prairie, indented by a ravine, called *Resaca de la Palma*.† Within that natural trench they found the Mexicans prepared for battle. They had formed a battery in such a position that it could completely sweep the road, and were otherwise strongly posted. After some very severe skirmishing, General Taylor ordered Captain May to charge the battery upon the road with his dragoons, and capture the artillery. The command was hardly given, before the gallant May, rising in his stirrups, called out, "Remember your regiment! Men, follow!" and dashing forward amid the shower of balls that came from the battery, made his horse leap the barrier. A few of his men followed in the mighty leap,—the gunners were

* Chapparal is the name given by the Mexicans to the thick undergrowth of their stunted forests, which make an almost impenetrable barrier. The place where this battle was fought is called Palo Alto, or *high trees*, which abounded near, and which, with the undergrowth, form the chapparal. The trees are high, only by comparison, for they are of stunted growth.

† This ravine, which is about four feet deep, and two hundred feet wide, forms the bed, in the rainy season, of continuous pools. Upon its brink the palmetto flourishes. In dry weather the water disappears, and from this cause, and the presence of palms, the Mexicans call the place *Resaca de la Palma*.

killed or dispersed,—and General La Vega, who was about applying a match to a piece, was made prisoner, and amid the iron hail of the enemy, was carried in triumph within the American lines. Still the battle raged on, and soon the combatants closed in, and the strife was terrible. The almost impenetrable chapparal was alive with the enemy, from whence they kept up a deadly fire; but at length the camp and headquarters of General Arista, the commander-in-chief, were captured, and the enemy was completely routed.*



CAPTURE OF LA VEGA.

In this engagement, only seventeen hundred Americans took part, while the number of the enemy was about seven thousand chosen troops, and nearly two thousand irregulars. The American loss consisted of one hundred and ten, killed and wounded; that of the Mexicans was more than one thousand. Arista saved himself by flight, and, quite unattended, he made his way across the Rio Grande. General La Vega and a few other officers were sent on parole, to New Orleans.

Immediately after the battle of Resaca de la Palma, General Taylor returned to Point Isabel, to make some arrangements for the future with Commodore Conner, and then proceeded to Fort Brown to commence offensive operations. For one hundred and sixty hours, the fort had

* Never was the rout of an army more complete. The plate and other private property of Arista, correspondence, arms, ammunition, and equipments for several thousand men, and two thousand horses, fell into the hands of the victors.

Flight of the Mexicans from Matamoras —Preparation to march to Monterey.

withstood an almost incessant fire from the enemy, without receiving much damage. Taylor at once prepared to bombard Matamoras, where, he understood, the enemy were again collecting. On ^a May, 1846, the 17th,^a Arista sent a deputation to Taylor to ask for an armistice until the two governments should arrange the dispute. The presence was too thin for the eagle eye of "Rough and Ready"—he saw through it all, and refused the boon. But during the conference of the deputation, Arista succeeded in removing a good deal of ammunition and stores from the city, and during the night he retreated with his troops to the open country towards Monterey. Hearing of this, Taylor withheld his bomb-shells, and on the 18th he crossed the river with a large detachment of his army, and entered Matamoras in triumph. The American flag was unfurled upon its battlements, and, for the first time, the American army was encamped upon undisputed Mexican soil.

The day succeeding the occupation of Matamoras, Lieutenant-Colonel Garland, with the cavalry of the army, was sent in pursuit of Arista, but their ignorance of the country, and the general barrenness, which afforded scarcely any provender for the horses, forced them to return, after pursuing the flying enemy full sixty miles, and most of the time within twenty-four hours' march of them.*

General Taylor remained at Matamoras from May until September,^b awaiting the orders of his government, receiving reinforcements, and making preparations for marching against Monterey, a strongly-fortified town in the interior.† In the mean while, Congress had highly approved of his course, voted an appropriation of ten millions of dollars, and authorized the raising, by volunteer enlistment, an army of fifty thousand men. By the advice and consent of the Senate, the President of the United States transmitted to General Taylor a commission as Major-General, by brevet.^c

The force organized by General Taylor to advance on Monterey‡ consisted of six thousand six hundred and forty men. Besides these, he reserved about two thousand men to garrison Camargo, and more for points farther in the rear, under the general command of General Patterson. General Ampudia commanded at Monterey, and hearing

* As a specimen of the deception practiced upon the Mexican people by their chiefs, we here relate a circumstance mentioned by Colonel Garland. Stopping at a place where the enemy had encamped the night previous, the owner of the house, or *rancha*, as they term it, asked Colonel Garland, with great simplicity, where the Americans were going. "In pursuit of the retreating Mexican army," replied Garland. "Retreating army!" said the man, with surprise. "Why, General Ampudia stopped at my house last night, and said that his troops had conquered the Americans, and that he was now on his way to the city of Mexico to take the news!"

† On the very day that General Taylor entered Matamoras, the United States squadron arrived off Vera Cruz, and commenced the blockade of that, and other ports on the Gulf.

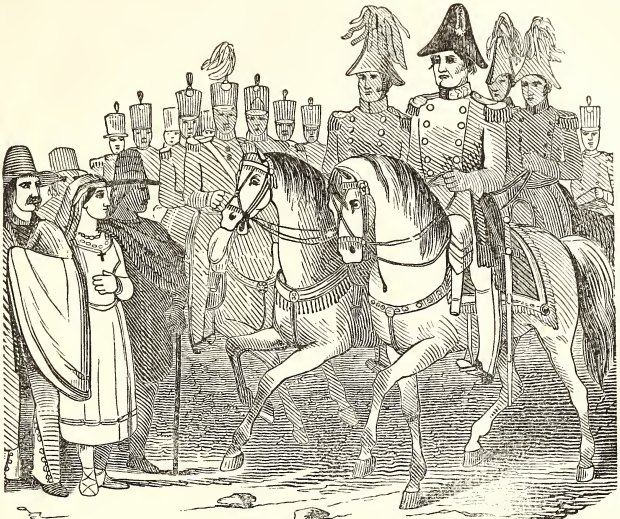
‡ Monterey is the capital of the State of New Leon, and at the time in question, it contained about fifteen thousand inhabitants. It is one of the strongest holds in Mexico, and during the revolution of 1833, it bade defiance to the royal arms of Old Spain

of the preparations of Taylor to attack it, he greatly strengthened its defences, and felt quite secure within its walls. He had eight thousand troops under his command, besides the armed citizens; and he had, also, supplies of every kind in abundance.

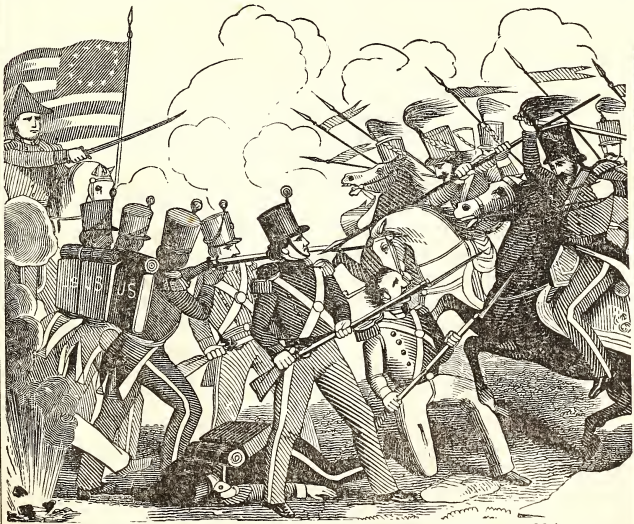


GENERAL AMPUDIA

General Taylor arrived within sight of Monterey on the 19th of September, and on the night of the 20th, General Worth's advanced column bivouacked on the road with a heavy and cold rain pouring upon them, unprotected by tent or blanket. The attack commenced on the 21st by General Worth, and continued, in connection with other divisions of the army, all the next day. On the 23d, the assault became general, and a dreadful conflict ensued, in the streets of the city. From the strong stone houses, volleys of musketry dealt death in all directions among our soldiers, but they were resolved on victory, and victory they achieved. On the fourth day of the siege, Ampudia sent a flag of truce, asking a brief suspension of hostilities, for the purpose of a parley. The request was granted, and the Mexican general proposed to evacuate the city. General Taylor would not consent to an evacuation, but insisted upon a complete surrender of the town and garrison, the latter as prisoners of war. It was finally agreed that the city should be surrender-



ENTRANCE OF GENERAL TAYLOR INTO MATAMORAS, MAY 18, 1846. (See page 23.)



BATTLE OF BUENA VISTA, FEBRUARY 23, 1847. (See page 23.)

ed^a to Taylor, and the Mexican troops were allowed to evacuate the next day. As soon as they were gone, General ^{a Sept. 24.} Worth's division was quartered in the city, and quiet reigned among the inhabitants. In this siege, the Americans lost, in killed, wounded, and missing, five hundred and sixty-one. The loss of the Mexicans is not correctly known, but was much more than that of the Americans.*

After the capitulation, General Taylor found his force at Monterey reduced to about five thousand five hundred effective men; and the distance between him and the volunteers at different points on the Rio Grande made it quite improbable that he could soon receive reinforcements. Having despatched an account of the siege and terms of capitulation to his government, General Taylor awaited an answer, and instructions for his future movements. He called upon his government for ample reinforcements, and recommended the landing of 25,000 troops at Vera Cruz. He finally received such instructions from the Secretary of War, that he informed the Mexican general-in-chief that the armistice would cease on the 13th of November.

On the 12th of November, General Worth's division left Monterey for Saltillo,† and General Taylor, with the rest of the army, except a sufficient garrison, took up their line of march on the 13th.‡ On the 15th of December, General Taylor set out for Victoria, intending to march to and attack Tampico; but on the evening of the 17th, he received a despatch from General Worth, announcing the rumor that Santa Anna, with a large force, was about to make a demonstration on Saltillo. He therefore deemed it prudent to return to Monterey, to be ready to reinforce General Worth at Saltillo, in case the rumor should prove true. On the 20th, he received a despatch from Saltillo, announcing the arrival of General Wool's division, and that the rumored attack of Santa Anna was a fable. He again proceeded to Victoria, and on the 29th that place was occupied by General Quitman, without resistance.

While General Taylor was preparing for a vigorous winter campaign, and concentrating his forces for the purpose, General Scott arrived, and, under the instructions of the government, prepared for an immediate attack upon Vera Cruz. For this purpose, he was obliged to draw upon General Taylor for a large number of his best officers, and a great portion of his regular troops, leaving him in the painful position of acting only on the defensive. His force was reduced to about five thousand men, of which only five hundred were regulars.

* For details of this siege, see Fry's Life of General Taylor.

† Saltillo is the capital of the State of Coahuila, and is situated about sixty-five miles southwest from Monterey.

‡ The governor of the State offered no resistance, but sent to General Taylor a solemn protest against the act of the United States government, in thus taking military possession of his domain.

Meeting of the opposing Armies at Buena Vista—Santa Anna's Demand for Surrender.

Santa Anna, who had been elected Provisional President of Mexico in December, began immediately to concentrate a large force at San Luis Potosi, to oppose the farther progress of General Taylor, should he be reinforced and attempt to penetrate the country beyond Monterey, or drive him from that strong position. In this movement he displayed great energy, and before the end of January he had about twenty-one thousand troops at San Luis. On the first of February, he began his march towards Saltillo, confident in his numerical strength, and avowedly determined to drive the Americans beyond the Rio Grande. He arrived at Encarnacion on the 20th of February, and on the 21st advanced on Saltillo. General Wool, who was at Saltillo, had kept General Taylor advised of the movements of the Mexican army, and when the old hero was assured that Santa Anna was rapidly approaching, he resolved, weak as his numbers were, to have a battle with him. So, on the 31st of January, he left Monterey with all his troops, except fifteen hundred, whom he left in garrison there, and on the 2d of February he reached Saltillo. He proceeded to Agua Nueva on the 4th, twenty miles south of Saltillo, on the San Luis road, where he encamped until the 21st. Learning that the Mexicans were advancing in large force, he fell back to Angostura, a narrow defile in the mountains, directly facing the hacienda* of Buena Vista. He there encamped in battle array, and awaited the arrival of Santa Anna.†

General Taylor showed much skill and judgment in the selection of his battle-ground, it being strongly fortified by nature, the road upon which the Mexicans advanced passing through a narrow gorge in the mountains—a sort of Thermopylæ. On the morning of the 22d of February (the birth-day of Washington), the vast army of Mexicans appeared in view, and about eleven o'clock they were within two miles of the American lines, where they halted. Santa Anna immediately sent a white flag to General Taylor, and the following despatch by the bearer :

CAMP AT ENCATADA, February 22d, 1847.

God and Liberty!

You are surrounded by 20,000 men, and cannot, in any human probability, avoid suffering a rout, and being cut to pieces with your troops; but as you deserve consideration and particular esteem, I wish to save you from such a catastrophe, and for that purpose give you this notice, in order that you may surrender at discretion, under the assurance that you will be treated with the consideration belonging to the

* Hacienda is the name given to a plantation, or estate. The meaning of Buena Vista is *pleasant view*.

† According to Mexican accounts, Santa Anna had 21,340 men, while General Taylor had only 4073, about one fifth less.

Battle of Buena Vista.—General Taylor's return home.—His proposed nomination for President.

Mexican character; to which end you will be granted an hour's time to make up your mind, to commence from the moment that my flag of truce arrives in your camp.

With this view, I assure you of my particular consideration.

ANTONIO LOPEZ DE SANTA ANNA.

To General Z. TAYLOR, commanding the forces of the United States.

General Taylor, who is always "ready," did not take the hour allotted to him to make up his mind, but instantly sat down and wrote the following reply:—

HEADQUARTERS, ARMY OF OCCUPATION, }
Near BUENA VISTA, Feb. 22, 1847. }

SIR: In reply to your note of this date, summoning me to surrender my forces at discretion, I beg leave to say that I decline acceding to your request.

With high respect, I am, sir, your obedient servant,

Z. TAYLOR, Major-General U. S. Army.

This correspondence opened the ball, and very soon after the return of Santa Anna's messenger, both armies made vigorous preparations for conflict. The Mexicans unexpectedly withheld their attack until the next morning. The American troops bivouacked without fires, and slept upon their arms that night. During the night the enemy endeavored to form a cordon of troops around our gallant little army, and detachments were posted upon the mountain-sides above them. The action commenced early on the morning of the 23d, and was kept up, with dreadful slaughter, during the whole day. Until nearly night, it was a matter of great doubt who would be the victor, but the enemy was finally routed from every position, and darkness brought the conflict to a close. The weather that night was severely cold, and the exhausted Americans slept upon the battle-field without fires, expecting to renew the contest in the morning; but it was ascertained that Santa Anna had fallen back to Agua Nueva, about eight miles distant. In the course of a few days his large army was almost totally dispersed. The dead and dying Mexicans were strewed thickly along the path of their chief's retreat, and they left more than five hundred of their comrades dead upon the field. The American loss was two hundred and sixty-seven killed, four hundred and fifty-six wounded, and twenty-three missing. The Mexican loss was nearly two thousand. The Americans lost twenty-eight officers, among whom was Captain Lincoln, assistant adjutant-general, Colonels Hardin and M'Kee, and Lieutenant-Colonel Clay, a son of the distinguished statesman, Henry Clay.

If anything had been wanting to sustain the claim of General Taylor to the character of a great general, the battle of Buena Vista* was amply sufficient to set all questions at rest. Taking into account the disparity of numbers, and the fact that a large portion of his army consisted of volunteers, many of them raw recruits, we think this battle may be inscribed upon the page of history as one of the most remarkable on record.

After a few offensive and defensive movements in the vicinity of the battle-ground of Buena Vista, General Taylor returned to his camp at Walnut Springs, where he remained quite inactive† until December, 1847, when he returned home. At New Orleans, and every other place on his route to his family at Baton Rouge, Louisiana, he was received with the most enthusiastic demonstrations of respect and admiration. The service in Mexico not needing his aid, he has remained in the quiet seclusion of the bosom of his family until the present time; but that repose is likely soon to be disturbed, by his being called to fill the highest civil station in the gift of his countrymen—the presidency of the United States.

After the brilliant achievements at Monterey and Buena Vista, so strongly did admiration for the skill, wisdom, and bravery of General Taylor take possession of the minds of his countrymen, that a spontaneous desire seemed to have been awakened in every section of the Union to reward him by making him president of the republic, the honor of whose arms he had so nobly sustained.

His nomination for the presidency was first proposed to him by a member of the "Native-American party," in March, 1847. While he did not positively refuse to allow his name to be used in that connexion, he stated that he could not, while the country was involved in war, and while his duty called him to take part in the operations against the enemy, acknowledge any ambition beyond that of bestowing all his best exertions toward obtaining an adjustment of our difficulties with Mexico. Subsequently, he expressed a willingness to become a candidate for the presidency, provided he could receive a nomination exclusive of any party considerations, and without any pledges to party requirements. To this determination he has steadily adhered; and the following letters will show how completely divested of all party shackles he will enter the presidential chair, if elected, unless he shall be drawn into pledges by party leaders before the election in November next:—

* Once before, Buena Vista was the theatre of a bloody battle. In 1823, twelve thousand Spanish regulars were cut to pieces by eighteen thousand Mexicans, in the war with Spain for Mexican independence.

† Toward the close of 1846, General Scott was ordered to take supreme command of the army in Mexico. He reached the Rio Grande about the first of January, 1847, and commenced operations by capturing Vera Cruz. From that time, all the military movements of consequence in Mexico were upon the line of Scott's expedition against the capital. General Taylor had little else to do than to maintain securely the vantage ground he had gained in his previous battles.

General Taylor's Correspondence on the subject of the Presidency.

"HEADQUARTERS, ARMY OF OCCUPATION, }
Camp near MONTEREY, May 18, 1847. }

"SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter with the enclosure of your editorial, extracted from the 'Signal' of the 13th April.

"At this time, my public duties command so fully my attention, that it is impossible to answer your letter in the terms demanded by its courtesy, and the importance of the sentiments to which it alludes; neither, indeed, have I the time, should I feel myself at liberty, to enter into the few and most general subjects of public policy suggested by the article in question. My own personal views were better withheld till the end of the war, when my usefulness as a military chief, serving in the field against the common enemy, shall no longer be compromised by their expression or discussion in any matter.

"From many sources I have been addressed on the subject of the presidency; and I do violence neither to myself, nor to my position as an officer of the army, by acknowledging to you, as I have done to all who have alluded to the use of my name in this exalted connexion, that my services are ever at the will and call of the country, and that I am not prepared to say that I shall refuse if the country calls me to the presidential office, but that I can and shall yield to no call that does not come from the spontaneous action and free will of the nation at large, and void of the slightest agency of my own.

"For the high honor and responsibilities of such an office, I take occasion to say, I have not the slightest aspiration: a much more tranquil and satisfactory life, after the termination of my present duties, awaits me, I trust, in the society of my family and particular friends, and in the occupations most congenial to my wishes. In no case can I permit myself to be the candidate of any party, or yield myself to party schemes.

"With these remarks, I trust you will pardon me for thus briefly replying to you, which I do with a high opinion and approval of the sentiments and views embraced in your editorial.

"With many wishes for your prosperity in life, and great usefulness in the sphere in which your talents and exertions are embarked, I beg to acknowledge myself,

"Most truly and respectfully, your obedient servant,

"Z. TAYLOR, Major-General U. S. Army.

"JAMES W. TAYLOR, Esq., Cincinnati, O."

"HEADQUARTERS, ARMY OF OCCUPATION, }
Camp near MONTEREY, August 10, 1847. }

"SIR: Your letter of the 17th ultimo, requesting of me an exposition of my views on the questions of national policy now at issue between the political parties of the United States, has duly reached me.

"I must take occasion to say that many of my letters, addressed to gentlemen in the United States in answer to similar inquiries, have already been made public, and I had greatly hoped that all persons interested had by this time obtained from them a sufficiently accurate knowledge of my views and desires in relation to this subject. As it appears, however, that such is not the case, I deem it proper, in reply to your letter, distinctly to repeat that I am not before the people of the United States as a candidate for the next presidency. It is my great desire to return, at the close of this war, to the discharge of those professional duties and to the enjoyment of those domestic pursuits from which I was called at its commencement, and for which my tastes and education best fit me.

"I deem it but due to candor to state, at the same time, that, if I were called to the presidential chair, by the general voice of the people, without regard to their political differences, I should deem it to be my duty to accept the office. But while I freely avow my attachment to the administrative policy of our early presidents, I desire it to be understood that I can not submit, even in thus accepting it, to the exaction of any other pledge as to the course I should pursue than that of discharging its functions to the best of my ability, and strictly in accordance with the requirements of the constitution.

"I have thus given you the circumstances under which only can I be induced to accept the high and responsible office of president of the United States. I need hardly add that I can not, in any case, permit myself to be brought before the people exclusively by any of the political parties that now so unfortunately divide our country, as their candidate for this office.

"It affords me great pleasure, in conclusion, fully to concur with you in your high and just estimate of the virtues, of both head and heart, of the distinguished citizens (Messrs. Clay, Webster, Adams, McDuffie, and Calhoun) mentioned in your letter. I have never exercised the privilege of voting; but had I been called upon at the last presidential election to do so, I should most certainly have cast my vote for Mr. Clay.

"I am sir, very respectfully,

"Z. TAYLOR, Major-General U. S. Army.

"F. S. BRONSON, M. D., Charleston, S. C."

"BATON ROUGE, La., January 30, 1848.

"SIR: Your communication of the 15th instant has been received, and the suggestions therein offered duly considered.

"In reply to your inquiries, I have again to repeat that I have neither the power nor the desire to dictate to the American people the exact manner in which they should proceed to

General Taylor's Correspondence on the subject of the Presidency.

nominate for the presidency of the United States. If they desire such a result, they must adopt the means best suited, in their opinion, to the consummation of the purpose; and if they think fit to bring me before them for this office, through their legislatures, mass meetings, or conventions, I can not object to their designating these bodies as whig, democratic, or native. But in being thus nominated, I must insist on the condition—and my position on this point is immutable—that I shall not be brought forward by them as the candidate of their party, or considered as the exponent of their party doctrines.

"In conclusion, I have to repeat, that if I were nominated for the presidency, by any body of my fellow-citizens, designated by any name they might choose to adopt, I should esteem it an honor, and would accept such nomination, provided it had been made entirely independent of party considerations.

"I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

Z. TAYLOR.

"PETER SKEN SMITH, Esq., Philadelphia."

"BATON ROUGE, April 22, 1848.

"DEAR SIR: My opinions have been so often misconceived and misrepresented, that I deem it due to myself, if not to my friends, to make a brief exposition of them upon the topics to which you have called my attention.

"I have consented to the use of my name as a candidate for the presidency. I have frankly avowed my own distrust of my fitness for this high station; but having, at the solicitation of many of my countrymen, taken my position as a candidate, I do not feel at liberty to surrender that position until my friends manifest a wish that I should retire from it. I will then most gladly do so. I have no private purposes to accomplish, no party projects to build up, no enemies to punish—nothing to serve but my country.

"I have been very often addressed by letter, and my opinions have been asked upon almost every question that might occur to the writers as affecting the interest of their country or their party. I have not always responded to these inquiries, for various reasons.

"I confess, while I have great cardinal principles which will regulate my political life, I am not sufficiently familiar with all the minute details of political legislation to give solemn pledges to exert myself to carry out this or defeat that measure. I have no concealment. I hold no opinion which I would not readily proclaim to my assembled countrymen; but crude impressions upon matters of policy, which may be right to-day and wrong to-morrow, are perhaps not the best test of fitness for office. One who can not be trusted without pledges, can not be confided in merely on account of them.

"I will proceed, however, now to respond to your inquiries:—

"1. I reiterate what I have so often said: I am a whig. If elected, I would not be the mere president of a party. I would endeavor to act independent of party domination. I should feel bound to administer the government untrammelled by party schemes.

"2. THE VETO-POWER.—The power given by the constitution to the executive to interpose his veto, is a high conservative power; but, in my opinion, should never be exercised, except in cases of clear violation of the constitution, or manifest haste and want of consideration by Congress. Indeed, I have thought that for many years past the known opinions and wishes of the executive have exercised undue and injurious influence upon the legislative department of the government; and for this cause I have thought our system was in danger of undergoing a great change from its true theory. The personal opinions of the individual who may happen to occupy the executive chair, ought not to control the action of Congress upon questions of domestic policy; nor ought his objections to be interposed where questions of constitutional power have been settled by the various departments of government, and acquiesced in by the people.

"3. Upon the subject of the tariff, the currency, the improvement of our great highways, rivers, lakes, and harbors, the will of the people, as expressed through their representatives in Congress, ought to be respected and carried out by the executive.

"4. THE MEXICAN WAR.—I sincerely rejoice at the prospect of peace. My life has been devoted to arms, yet I look upon war at all times and under all circumstances as a national calamity, to be avoided if compatible with the national honor. The principles of our government, as well as its true policy, are opposed to the subjugation of other nations and the dismemberment of other countries by conquest. In the language of the great Washington, 'Why should we quit our own to stand on foreign ground?' In the Mexican war our national honor has been vindicated; and in dictating terms of peace, we may well afford to be forbearing and even magnanimous to a fallen foe.

"These are my opinions upon the subjects referred to by you, and any reports or publications written or verbal, from any source, differing in any essential particular from what is here written, are unauthorized and untrue.

"I do not know that I shall again write upon the subject of national politics. I shall engage in no schemes, no combinations, no intrigues. If the American people have not confidence in me, they ought not to give me their suffrages. If they do not, you know me well enough to believe me, when I declare I shall be content. I am too old a soldier to murmur against such high authority.

"To Capt. J. S. ALLISON."

Z. TAYLOR.

With these repeated expressions of entire independence of all party shackles, General Taylor's name was presented to the whig national convention, which met at Philadelphia

Nominated for President by the Whig Convention.—His Person and Character.

on the 7th of this month (June, 1848), to nominate candidates for president and vice-president. It was not generally supposed that his name would be offered in that convention; but when they assembled, it was evident that a large number of the delegates were decidedly in favor of nominating General Taylor. His name was presented, and the vote on the first ballot was as follows: Taylor, 111; Clay, 97; Scott, 43; Webster, 22; Clayton, 4; M'Lean, 2. Necessary for a choice, 140; the whole number of votes being 279.

On the second ballot, the vote stood, for Taylor, 118; Clay, 86; Scott, 49; Webster, 22; Clayton, 4.

The result of the third ballot was—Taylor, 133; Clay, 74; Scott, 54; Webster, 17; Clayton, 1.

The fourth and final ballot gave Taylor 171; Clay, 35; Scott, 60; Webster, 14.

General TAYLOR was then declared nominated, and he now stands before the country as the whig nominee for the presidency of the United States. The Hon. MILLARD FILLMORE, of the state of New York, is the candidate for the vice-presidency upon the same ticket.

The following table exhibits the votes of the delegates of each state for the four ballots:—

	First Ballot.					Second Ballot.					Third Ballot.					Fourth Ballot.						
	Whole No.	Clay	Taylor	Scott	Webster	Clayton	M'Lean	Webster	Taylor	Clay	Scott	Webster	Clayton	Taylor	Clay	Scott	Webster	Clayton	Taylor	Clay	Scott	Webster
Maine	9	1	5	0	3	0	0	0	0	5	1	3	0	0	5	2	2	0	0	5	3	1
New Hampshire	6	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	2	0	4
Vermont	6	5	1	0	0	0	0	0	5	1	0	0	0	5	1	0	0	0	2	2	2	0
Massachusetts	12	0	0	0	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	0	0	1	2	9	0	0	1	2	9
Rhode Island	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	0	0	0	3	1	0	0	0	0	4	0	0
Connecticut	6	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	3	3	0	0	0	3	3	0	0
New York	36	29	0	5	1	0	1	0	28	1	5	1	1	28	2	6	0	0	16	6	14	0
New Jersey	7	4	3	0	0	0	0	0	4	3	0	0	0	3	4	0	0	0	3	4	0	0
Pennsylvania	26	12	8	6	0	0	0	0	7	9	10	0	0	4	12	10	0	0	4	12	10	0
Delaware	3	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	1	1	0	1	0	2	1	0
Maryland	8	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	0	0	0	0	5	3	0	0	0	0	8	0	0
Virginia	17	2	15	0	0	0	0	0	2	15	0	0	0	2	15	0	0	0	1	16	0	0
North Carolina	11	5	6	0	0	0	0	0	5	6	0	0	0	3	7	1	0	0	1	10	0	0
South Carolina	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0
Georgia	10	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	0	0	0	0	10	0	0	0	0	10	0	0
Alabama	7	1	6	0	0	0	0	0	1	6	0	0	0	1	6	0	0	0	1	6	0	0
Mississippi	6	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	6	0	0
Louisiana	6	1	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	6	0	0
Ohio	23	1	1	20	0	1	0	0	1	1	21	0	0	1	1	21	0	0	1	1	21	0
Kentucky	12	5	7	0	0	0	0	0	5	7	0	0	0	5	7	0	0	0	1	11	0	0
Tennessee	13	0	13	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	0	0	0	0	13	0	0	0	0	13	0	0
Indiana	12	2	1	9	0	0	0	0	1	3	8	0	0	1	5	6	0	0	1	7	4	0
Illinois	8	3	4	1	0	0	0	0	3	4	1	0	0	3	4	1	0	0	0	8	0	0
Missouri	7	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	7	0	0
Arkansas	3	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	3	0	0
Michigan	5	3	0	2	0	0	0	0	2	0	3	0	0	1	0	4	0	0	0	2	3	0
Florida	3	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	3	0	0
Wisconsin	4	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0
Iowa	4	1	2	0	0	1	0	0	1	3	0	0	0	1	3	0	0	0	0	4	0	0
Texas	4	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	4	0	0

In person, General Taylor is about the middle height, slightly inclined to corpulency. His legs are proportionably too short for his body, so that he appears a taller man on horseback than on foot. Benevolence is a striking characteristic of his countenance, and in this respect his face is the true index of his heart. He is kind, forbearing, and humane. As a single instance of the tenderness of his heart, we will mention a fact related by a correspondent of the New-Orleans Picayune, and then leave the old hero to the love and veneration of the reader: "The parting scene," says the writer, "between General Taylor and the Mississippi regiment (after the battle of Buena Vista) was affecting in the extreme. As the men marched by him to return to their homes, overpowered with a recollection of the high deeds which had endeared them to him, and with their demonstrations of respect and affection, he attempted in vain to address them. With tears streaming down his furrowed cheeks, all he could say was, 'Go on, boys—go on—I can't speak!'"

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH
OF
MILLARD FILLMORE,

WHIG NOMINEE FOR
VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

THE career of Mr. FILLMORE affords a striking exhibition of the power of persevering industry, when connected with good natural talents, to overcome every obstacle which humble birth and defective education may cast in the way to honor and distinction; and it is another, of the thousands of examples which our republic affords, proving that that great highway is open to all.

MILLARD FILLMORE is the son of a New-York farmer, who, we believe, is still living. He was born at Summer Hill, Cayuga county, New York, January 7, 1800, and is consequently now in the forty-ninth year of his age. Heavy losses reduced the fortune of his father, when Millard was a boy, and his narrow means deprived his son of the advantages of education beyond the common school of the town; and, at the age of fifteen years, his acquaintance with books was confined to those of the school-room and the family Bible. At that age, he was sent into the wilds of Livingston county to learn the clothier's trade, where he remained only about four months, and then returned to his native town. There he pursued the business under another man. A small village library was soon afterward formed, and the opening of this little fountain of knowledge created an intense thirst for information in the mind and heart of young Fillmore. Every leisure moment was spent in reading, and the natural talents of the boy were rapidly developed. These were perceived by Judge Wood, a gentleman eminent for his talents and wealth, who furnished young Fillmore with the means to purchase his time; and then, at the age of nineteen, he took him into his office as a law-student. There he remained two years, teaching school three months out of each year, to acquire the means for his partial support. In 1821, he entered a law-office in Buffalo, and taught school and studied until the spring of 1823, when he was admitted to the bar, and commenced practice in Aurora. There he remained until 1830, when he returned to Buffalo, where he still resides.

Mr. Fillmore's first entrance into public life was in 1829, when he took his seat as a member of assembly for Erie county, which office he filled two years in succession. The whigs (with whom he acted) were then in an almost helpless minority, and Fillmore had little chance to distinguish himself. Yet, notwithstanding his youth, his talents obtained for him great influence with his party, and it was a common remark among the whig members—"If Fillmore says it is right, we will vote for it." In the legislature he took an active stand for humanity, in favor of abolishing imprisonment for debt, and was one of the committee who draughted the bill for that purpose.

In 1832, Mr. Fillmore was elected a representative of his district in Congress; and during the stormy session of 1833-'4, when the United States bank and the "removal of the deposits" were the great theme of debate, he was untiring in his labors. He resumed the practice of his profession at the close of the term, but was again called forth, in 1836, to represent his district in Congress the second time. He now took a more active part, and was placed upon many important committees, among which was the one on elections. It was before this committee that the famous New-Jersey case came up, and in the patient and able investigation of that case Mr. Fillmore greatly distinguished himself. He was re-elected to Congress in 1840, by a majority larger than ever before given in his district, and in that session he was recognised as a leader in the house. He remained in Congress, laboring intensely for the public good, until 1844, when he received from his party the nomination for the office of governor of the state of New York. The late Silas Wright was his successful competitor. In the autumn of 1847, Mr. Fillmore was elected comptroller of the state of New York, by the overwhelming majority of nearly forty thousand, which office he now fills with signal ability. He is at the present time before the people of the Union as the whig nominee for the office of vice-president of the United States, having received the nomination, on the second ballot, by the late whig national convention at Philadelphia. Speaking of his nomination, one of our daily journals remarks: "No candidate for that office could possibly have been presented more acceptable to the whigs of New York than Millard Fillmore. He is a strong, sound, safe man, of humble origin; not favored by fortune, he has won a place in life, by his talents, his industry, and his virtue that may well be envied. His public service, though short, has been distinguished for ability and devotion to whig principles and the public good. His whole course in Congress was honorable to himself and of service to the country. With a mind eminently practical, a judgment in the highest degree cautious yet clear and firm, and an integrity of character above suspicion in any respect, he has never in public life made a single mistake, nor taken a position which he could not maintain. In this, his own state, which knows him well, his name will add strength even to a ticket with ZACHARY TAYLOR as its head."

PRONUNCIATION AND DEFINITION OF MEXICAN NAMES.

<i>Names.</i>	<i>Pronunciation.</i>	<i>Definition.</i>
La Resaca de la Palma,	Lah Ray-sah-kha day	
	lah Pal-mah, - - -	Surf pal.
Palo Alto, - - -	Pah-lo Ahl-to, - - -	Tall tree.
Santiago, - - -	San-te-ah-go, - - -	St. James.
Rio del Norte, - - -	Ree-o del Nor-tay, - -	North river.
Chapparra, - - -	Chah-pah-rah, - - -	Small bush.
Chapparal, - - -	Chah-pahr-rah, - - -	Clump of bushes.
Ranchero, - - -	Rahn-chay-ro, - - -	Laborer on a farm.
Rancho, - - -	Rahn-cho, - - -	Small farm.
Hacienda, - - -	Hah-ce-en-dha, - - -	Plantation.
Pelon, - - -	Pay-lone, - - -	(Greaser) a loafer.
Monterey, - - -	Mon-tar-ray, - - -	Mountain king.
Plaza, - - -	Plah-sah, - - -	Public Square.
Rinconado, - - -	Rin-co-nah-dho, - - -	Inside corner.
Los Muertos, - - -	Lohs Mwer-tohs, - - -	Land of the dead.
Saltillo, - - -	Sawl-te-yo, - - -	Leap or fall land.
Buena Vista, - - -	Bwey-nah Vees-tah, -	Pleasant view.
Las Incantadas, - -	Lahs In-can-tah-das, -	Enchanted ground.
China, - - -	Cheenah, - - -	
Estanque, - - -	Es-tahn-ke, - - -	Artificial pond.
Agua, - - -	Ag-wah, - - -	Water.
Agua Nueva, - - -	Ag-wah New-ay-vah, -	New water.
San Luis Potosi, - -	San Lew-is Po-to-sec,	
Lobos (Island), - -	Lobus, - - -	Wolf.
Cerralvo, - - -	Sa-rah-vo, - - -	
Sierra, - - -	See-er-ah, - - -	Mountain ridge.
San Juan de Ulua, - -	San Whahn da Oo-loo-	
	ah,	
Veia Cruz - - -	Vay-rah Crooz, - - -	True cross.
Alvarado, - - -	Al-vah-rah-dho, - - -	
Anton Lizardo, - - -	An-ton Lee-zar-dho, -	Lizard point.
Jalapa, - - -	Hah-lah-pah, - - -	Jalap.
Mexico, - - -	May-hee-co, - - -	
Sacrificios, - - -	Sac-ree-feesee-ohs, - -	Place of sacrifice.
Bonita, - - -	Bonee-tah, - - -	Pretty.
La Vega, - - -	Lay Vay-goh.	
Ampudia, - - -	Am-poo-dhee-ah.	
Mejia, - - -	May-hee-ah.	
Canalizo, - - -	Cah-nah-lez-ho.	
Paredes, - - -	Pa-ray-dhes.	
Gomez Farias, - - -	Gomez-Fa-ree-ass.	



GEN. TAYLOR